

The City recognizes that it cannot control every land user in the WHPA, so here are some ways you, as an individual, can help:

- ❖ Be aware of hazardous or dangerous chemicals in your home or business, such as, gasoline, kerosene, insecticide, disinfectants, herbicides, rodent poisons, paints, paint strippers, spot removers etc. These items should all be recycled if possible and never put in or on the ground.
- ❖ Use the Eaton County annual household hazardous waste collection service.
- ❖ For those who use septic systems, do not flush or pour any chemicals, other than those designed for use, in your system.
- ❖ Inspect heating oil tanks regularly to determine if they are leaking.

Need more information on how you can help?

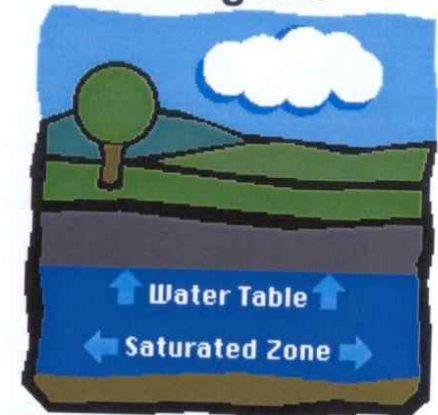
Please call the City Department of Public Works Office at 543-8858 or visit the Charlotte web site at <http://www.MVCC.com/comm/charlot.asp>

Protect and Preserve Our
Drinking Water



Charlotte City Hall
111 E. Lawrence Avenue
Charlotte, MI 48813

Wellhead Protection Program



Protect and Preserve
Our Quality
Drinking Water



Protect Our Drinking Water

High-quality drinking water is an issue that we, the water users of the City of Charlotte area, take for granted. In order to preserve the water quality into the future, the City, in conjunction with Eaton Township, has undertaken a program to identify and protect the source of our drinking water.

Groundwater is pumped from three wells located in Bennett Park to provide the drinking water distributed through the City's water distribution system. An underground sand and gravel formation called an aquifer holds the water like a very large sponge. Water enters the aquifer by moving downward through the overlying soil.

Through a program administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, called the Wellhead Protection Plan program, the City identified the location where the water enters the aquifer. The map to the right shows the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) location. The area, consisting of portions of the City of Charlotte and Eaton Township, primarily follows the Battle Creek River upstream from Cochran Street.

Contamination is much easier to prevent than it is to correct after it occurs.

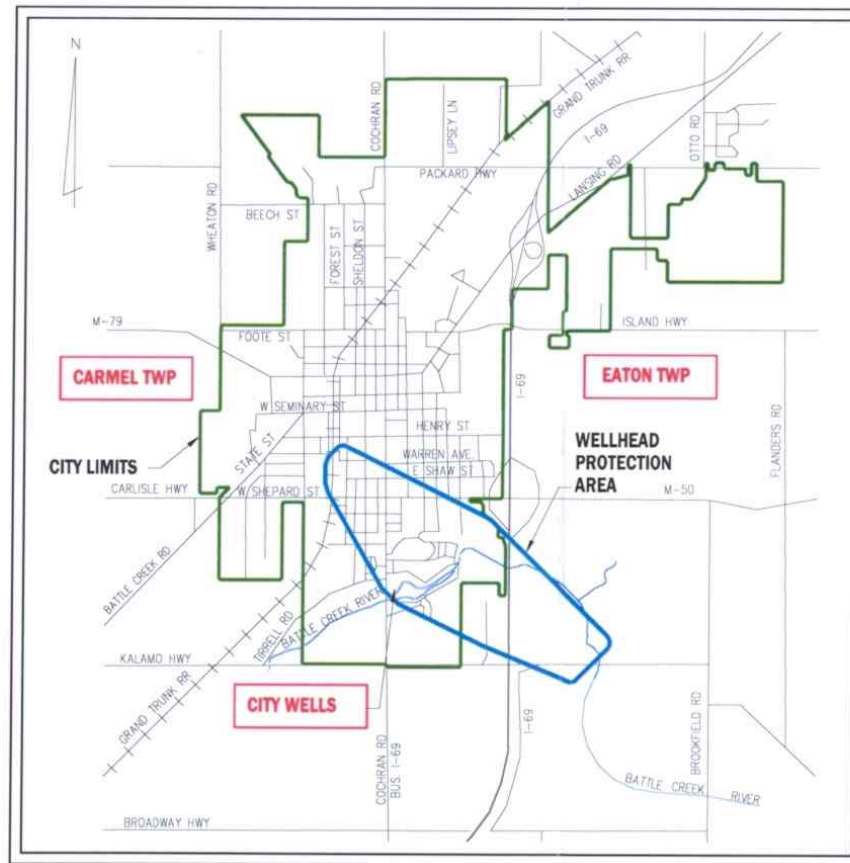
Because the wells are in the same general location, it is important that the aquifer not become contaminated or polluted. Contamination can come in many forms so it is important that every citizen be alert to potential problem causing agents. Once contamination occurs the water can become unfit to drink.

Your Participation is Essential

The Wellhead Protection Plan has identified twenty potential contamination sources within the Wellhead Protection Area. The cooperation of every business and residential landowner in the WHPA is essential to preserve the existing quality of the water. Potential problems range from large-scale fuel spills to individual residents dumping petroleum products on the ground.

The Wellhead Protection Area outlines the area where water enters the aquifer (an underground groundwater storage area). Water from precipitation entering the aquifer near the blue line on the map will take ten years to reach the City water supply.

CITY OF CHARLOTTE



Let's protect the Wellhead Protection Area from contamination – Charlotte's future depends on it.